From the Principal

I would like to welcome back everyone in our school community from what I hope was an enjoyable holiday. I send a warm welcome to the new members of our community – students, families and teachers. School staff returned on Tuesday last week to a day of professional development. Year 7, 11 and 12 returned on Wednesday and the whole school was ready for learning on Thursday. A number of teachers commented on how quickly students settled and focused on their studies. I spoke with many Year 7 students and they all indicated they were very happy and the Peer Support activities helped their start to high school. There will be a detailed report in our first edition of Muirfield Matters.

HSC successes

I would like to acknowledge the success of our 91 HSC students of 2012 and the work of the teachers who supported these students. We had 155 Band 5 & 6 results. Band 6s were achieved in the following subjects: English Extension 1, General Mathematics, Mathematics, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, Music 1, Ancient History, Modern History, Business Studies, French Beginners, Industrial Technology – Timber, Industrial Technology – Multi-media, VET Hospitality and Personal Health Development and Physical Education.

Significantly, 100% of our students undertaking Advanced English, Music 1 and Mathematics Extension 2 achieved a Band 5 or 6. The Department of Education and Communities’ data analysis shows that all of our Key Learning Areas performed above state. A remarkable achievement by both the students and their teachers.

Schools do not receive the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank). Some students let us know how they went, while others prefer to keep their ATAR private, still others let us know but ask that we not publish their ATAR. Later in the term we receive details of all university enrolments. Congratulations to the following students who have happily reported to us the university courses in which they have enrolled. Double degrees seem to be an increasingly popular option.

Taren Bettler
Our Dux,
Bachelor of Engineering, UNSW

Dong Min Park,
B Engineering/ Commerce, UNSW

Elizabeth Bovard,
B Education (Secondary) & B Arts, Sydney University

Vineet Sharma,
B Engineering/B Project Management, Sydney University

Rees Wilson,
B Media Arts (Hons), UNSW. Awarded an academic scholarship from UNSW.

Adriana Raciti,
B Speech & Hearing Sciences, Macquarie University

Joshua Clay,
B Arts/ B. Commerce, Macquarie University

Sinia Bhandari,
B Arts - Psychology, Macquarie University

Luke Hale,
B Health Sciences Sydney University

Ian Avico,
B Eng Innovation, Dip Eng Practice UTS

Alicia Zou,
B Science, Sydney University
IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please do not enter the school car park between the hours of 7.30am and 3.00pm. Parents are to drop off their children in Tiernan Ave. This is a much safer option. As well as the facility to turn cars, the road is much wider. Children can cross at the pedestrian lights.
Given the narrow entry of our carpark, the number of staff entering and the difficulty turning into the carpark off Barclay Road, it is a dangerous for students to be dropped off in the carpark. Congestion at the carpark lights endangers all students and drivers.

FEBRUARY EVENTS:
Swimming Carnival 7th Feb
School Photos 11th Feb
P & C meeting 7.30 pm 13th Feb
Zone Swimming Carnival 26th Feb

MARCH EVENTS:
Open Evening 7th March
International Women’s Day Breakfast 8th March

We welcome all parents and carers to the first meeting of the year Wednesday 13th at 7.30pm in the common room.
The P&C meets every second Wednesday of the month during school term 7.30pm – 9:30pm followed by light supper and chat. Meetings are held in the Teacher’s Common Room located in block A, ground floor.
As well as reports from the various sub-committees, we receive a detailed report from the Principal and a short presentation from the one of the Head Teachers or a visiting speaker each meeting.

Invitation
The New South Wales Police Force is presenting a Forum on Cyber Space Crime Prevention
India Club is hosting the Forum
The Hills Local Area Command Team will share a wealth of information on "Cyber Space Bullying & Safety"

Topics:
* Social Networking
* Bullying
* Internet filtering and safe chat
* Chain email/letters
* Cyber Crime
* Gaming and parental responsibilities
* Mobile phones

Guest Speakers:
Rob Paterson Senior Constable - Youth Liaison Officer
Josh Maxwell Chief Inspector - Manager for Project Eyewitness

Day & Date: Sunday the 17th February 2013
Time: 2 pm to 5.30pm (Assemble @ 1.45pm for 2pm start)
Venue: Castle Grand Pioneer Hall
  Castle Street Castle Hill (Corner Pennant and Castle Street)
RSVP:
Shubha Kumar: 9873 1207 / 0402 257 588  Em: shubha_kumar@hotmail.com
Rob Paterson Senior Constable: 9680 5399, Castle Hill Police: 9680 5399